SECOM Complete, RCH

TOP SECRET

Col Martin/lsw/3 June 63

S

3 JUN 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR The Deputy Director, NRO

SUBJECT: NRO Staff Functions of the JCS Joint Reconnaissance Center

References: a. DNRO 22 April 63 memo for Deputy DNRO, subject: NRO Aircraft Operations [redacted] 26-63)

b. Deputy DNRO 29 April 63 memo for [redacted] subject: NRO Aircraft Operations [redacted] -63)

I have considered your views and suggestions outlined in reference b, and am happy that you feel reference a has clarified and satisfactorily explained the position of the CIA in the proposed establishment of an aircraft operations office within the NRO Staff. However, in regard to your concern that the basic proposal is cumbersome and involves fundamental management weaknesses, I feel that one essential point should be emphasized further. The proposed capability is strictly and solely an over-all NRO staff function; it is not intended to serve as a line function or to replace the staff functions of line elements within the NRO. Consequently, as I pointed out in reference a, the proposed arrangement will not affect the responsibilities presently carried out b the Director, NRO Program B. Furthermore, since the JRC duties for the NRO are staff, rather than line, duties, and since these duties will be defined, the responsibility of the Chairman of the JRC will be clear: he will be responsible to the Director, NRO, for his specified NRO staff duties, and to the JCS for his specified JCS duties. Neither he nor I anticipate any particular difficulties on this point.

Your alternate proposal of a Director, NRO Program E would insert a line organization into the Joint Staff, which, at best, would be extremely awkward, and not at all responsive to the problem. The line elements associated with NRO aircraft reconnaissance are satisfactorily organized within the DOD and the CIA, including the staffs of these line elements. The present problem is to establish an over-all NRO staff for the Director, NRO.

OP

1-2 DDNRO
3. [redacted]
4.

Handle: [redacted] Copy 6 of 6 copies
Page 1 of 2 pages
Control No. [redacted] 26-63

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING:
DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

I enclose a copy of the response of the Secretary of Defense to the views and recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this subject. As stated in paragraph b, the Secretary requests final JCS/Director, NRO concurrence by June 10, 1963. I should like to have any further comments you may wish to make as soon as possible in order that I may conclude discussions with the Chiefs before that date.

Signed
Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

1 Atch
[redacted]726-63, with
[redacted]chments I & II

Copy 6 of 6 copies
Page [redacted]
Con[redacted]

Handle via [redacted]
Control Sy[redacted]

TOP SECRET